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INDIAN PLANNING:

Recent Trends And The Perspective

By SANKAR GHOSE
(Minister of State for Planning)

PLANNING is essential in a country like ours. It is only through planning that we can make a rational assessment of all available resources, both human and material these resources for eradicating poverty and strengthening the socio-economic base of the country. Planning is a continuous process for raising the standards of living of the people, for increasing production and productivity, for ensuring social justice, for expanding employment opportunities and for attaining economic self reliance.

An uncontrolled market does not necessarily maximise welfare. That is why, planning has been resorted to in India. Investment in a planned economy is determined by the society; it is not the resultant only of some market forces. Planning gives us greater control over the investment process than can be obtained through monetary policies or fiscal policies alone. In a planned economy, the rate of investment is not governed by the time-preferences of individual savers alone. Through the process of planning present consumption can be regulated on the basis of the importance that society attaches to the welfare of future generations. In India we are going in for a suitable mixture of labour-intensive and capital-intensive techniques to maximise employment in the short run as also in the long run.

THE AIM

An important raison-d'etre of planning is the equitable distribution of income. All forms of economic development do not result in a desirable distribution of goods and services among the population. Economic development under the system of laissez-faire led to the concentration of wealth in a few hands; the aim of planning is to prevent this.

India started planning in 1951. It has implemented four Five Year Plans and three Annual Plans and is now in the third year of the Fifth Plan.

The First Five Year Plan was launched against the background of the ravages of the Second World War and the partition. The aim of the First Plan was to recuperate the economy. It may be called the dress-rehearsal for the subsequent Plans.

During the Second Plan the nation tried to bring about a structural change in the economy. Many outmoded economic 'formations' and institutions were transformed during this Plan. Programmes for equipping the economy with a viable capital base were under way. It was recognised at this stage that distributive justice should be built into the strategy of development. The Second Plan document explicitly opts for a socialist pattern of society.

THIRD PLAN

During the Third Plan emphasis was laid on a better life for every citizen. The goal of development accompanied by social justice was adopted as a State Policy. Social justice does not automatically follow from any pattern of economic development. Increase of incomes in the aggregate may sometimes increase disparities. In the course of an unplanned economic development it is quite on the cards that the owners of capital would be the principal beneficiaries of the increased output. It is only through a carefully formulated strategy that benefit

(Continued on page 11)

Words To Remember

Inaugurating the Trivandrum-Quilon broadgauge railway line, the Prime Minister said "subdued inflation" was just waiting round the corner to stage a come-back.

"We still have to use financial stringency, hold our purses tight and see how to curtail government expenditure".

It was the wonderful patience of the Indian people and the hard work of farmers and others that had made it possible for the country to come out of the dark period and show good results (as seen in the RBI's recent report).

"This should not make us complacent". The financial discipline had to be balanced with developmental programmes, priority being given to essential programmes.

Irrigation and power for agricultural and industrial production would therefore have the claim of priority because food was the most essential thing.

If the choice was between using electricity for agricultural and industrial purposes and for electrification (of railways) there was no doubt that the first two would get preference.

x x x

Inaugurating the 'Thousand Development Centre Project' sponsored by the Kerala P. C. C., the Prime Minister said planning at the grass roots level was the only effective method of creating a sense of involvement in the people.

"For grassroots planning to the effective, people at the village level should know about it, should know about their needs and requirements in the context of those of the nation and should be concerned about the future, not the future of the individual but that of the country".

"India's problems are a blend of the age old problems of economic backwardness and poverty and the problems thrown up by the process of growth." To meet these problems and challenges, the people should be dynamic, disciplined and concerned about the future.

"Our aim has always been to involve the people in all facets of the nation's life. Our strength has always been the people. We don't want to create centres of power. We want power and strength with the people. However, we can only create the conditions, an infra-structure on which individuals and groups build."

During the freedom struggle our only weapon was unity, dedication and sense of service. But nothing could stand up to these weapons. Today in the struggle for the country's develodment, the same spirit and the same values were needed.

THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

Faith is not a delicate flower which would wither under the slightest stormy weather. Faith is like the Himalaya mountains which cannot possibly change. No storm can possibly remove the Himalaya mountains from their foundations. And I want every one of you to cultivate that faith in God and religion.

ASOKA SCENTED BETEL NUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY Sep. 19, 1976

WATER RESOURCES

If water had been a national resource and if irrigation had been in the Concurrent List of the Constitution, they would not have had such a severe drought in Tamil Nadu, the Prime Minister told a public meeting in Nagercoil.

Earlier in a chat with pressmen at Trivandrum, she said "the States do not like to include many subjects (in the concurrent list) Agriculture and water resources were two of the many subjects suggested for inclusion in the List. Dr. K. L. Rao has been pleading for inclusion of water resources. We have however left it where it is. We hope that by sitting together and negotiations, we would be able to solve these problems."

The fact is that we have not been able to solve these problems even after 25 years of independence. Disputes over river waters continue. Even agreements made during the last few years have not been finalised. The problem persists. Floods continue to ravage the land for want of agreed arrangements. Much water flows into the ocean, while people in wide tracts of thirsty lands look up to heaven in despair.

There is a new awakening in the country. The people respond to the call of the Prime Minister like never before. By using her inmense influence, she must see to it that water resources are put in the concurrent list in the present marathon amendments to the constitution.

The Prime Minister seems to be convinced about the need. With the new stress on agriculture, the matter has become all the more urgent. Another year may mean more losses and more suffering for the people.

State-level politicians flourish because of interstate disputes. Water resource in Concurrent List will put an end to these disputes.

Subramania Bharathi: Poet Of Freedom

"We are of the same caste and race,
We are children of Bharat all,"

Visionary lines these. And they couldn't be otherwise for Subramania Bharati, the poet of unity, to whom Bharat was the Mother supreme, the giver of all the gifts which we enjoy in this vast, sprawling land of ours.

"What is life without unity?
Division can only spell ruin,

Could we hold fast to this truth,
What more shall we need?
we'll bow to the Mother".

The Bard of Tamil Nadu was a product of tremulous times. The Indian National Congress was born within three years of his birth on December 11, 1882 at Ettaiyapuram in Tamil Nadu. Two decades later was to follow the upheaval over the partition of Bengal. The stage was truly set for a Poet Revolution to emerge.

Subramania Bharati was a prodigy. At the age of seven, he had earned notice for his poetic compositions. He acquired the title of "Bharati" meaning "Saraswati" at an early age. He had become a poet before he had stopped being a child.

His stay in the north brought to him a physical comprehension of the unity underlying the manifold diversities of our country. He learnt Hindi, English and Sanskrit, while staying with his aunt in Varanasi. After passing the Allahabad Entrance Examination, he went back to the South. He had a brief stint of State service and teaching. All the while the ferment of freedom was growing within him. And so was the literary urge. He homed in on journalism.

Subramania Bharati joined the Tamil daily, *Swadesamitran* in 1904, as a sub-editor. He also began editing a monthly, *Chakravarthini*. A lesser mortal than him might have found these assignments a mouthful. But not Bharati. In 1906, he put one more string to his bow to shoot his political arrow—the editorship of *"India"* the Tamil organ of the extremist wing of the Congress, as also of the *"Bala Bharati"* an English weekly. The arrows found their mark. *"India"* was banned by the British, as it built up into a political organ for freedom.

His life was quickly acquiring new dimensions. During the 1907 Congress session at Surat, he met Lokmanya Balgangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai and Shri Aurobindo. His first anthology of poems' *"Swadesh Githangal"* (songs of freedom) appeared in 1908. The British ordered his arrest. Bharati escaped to Pondicherry. The emerging outlines of a political career were familiar. But, Bharati was also a litterateur.

The poet in him was not to be denied. The misery and deprivation that fell to his lot in Pondicherry, only added to his creative urge.

His world, though barren, was suffused with the warm smile of the Muse. His best works in prose and poetry flowed out—*Janma Boomi*, a volume of songs, and his best poems, *"Kuyil Pattu"* and *"Panchali Shabatham"*, *"Mada Mani Vasagam"* a collection of philosophical songs. Bharati also found time to translate the Bhagwad Gita into Tamil.

Like the Prisoner of Chillon, he perhaps felt that he was "rusting in wild repose". So he crossed the border in 1918, to be arrested and released. He went back to his ancestral village, only to return two years later to his old love, the *Swadesamitran*.

Those whom the Gods love most, die young. And so was with Bharati. His life was cut

(Contd. on page 11)

SARATCHANDRA:

The Immortal Story-teller

By SUKUMAR MUKHERJEE
Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry.

[Shri Saratchandra Chatterji's Birth Centinary falls on Friday, September 17, 1976]

THIS year on September 17, we celebrate the Birth Centinary of Saratchandra Chatterji—an outstanding novelist of India. In 1876, Saratchandra was born in a village called Devanandpur—about 100 miles away from Calcutta. He was not born of rich parents and in his early years poverty compelled him to give up his studies in College.

But Saratchandra, in course of time, came to occupy a unique position in the literary world of Bengal—I may even say, of India. The present generation of readers in India may not be so familiar with his works. But only a generation ago, Saratchandra was avidly read by all lovers of literature all over India.

His works have, of course, been translated into almost all languages of India—and one of his masterpieces 'Srikanta has even been translated into French.

Sarat's father dabbled in almost every form of literature. He wrote poems, plays, short stories, novels—but, curiously enough, he left them all unfinished. Young Sarat would read these fragments in rapture. And he became so interested that he began writing himself. He was then hardly 17 years old.

Bengal was then full of Tagore—and the sensitive youth after reading one of Tagore's stories, tore up whatever he had written. And he made the high resolve not to publish any of his writing till it was as good as Tagore's.

IN BURMA

At the age of 27 he left for Burma—and there he got a clerical job in a government office in Rangoon.

It was a chance circumstance that started him on the road to literary fame. Once, while in Calcutta, on a short leave from Rangoon, he ran into some of his friends of his boyhood days. They had just started a literary journal and they pressed him to write for it.

A short story appeared in it—and it created stir. But it was published anonymously and several critics attributed it to Rabindranath Tagore. When Tagore denied its authorship, it was felt that a new literary star had been born.

Sarat now started giving more time to writing. His *Baradidi* (Elder Sister) was serialised in a well-known magazine in Calcutta. In its last instalment his name was given as the writer.

But so great was his shyness that when his friends in Rangoon asked him if he was the author, he stoutly denied it—protesting that it was just an accidental similarity in name.

He had been in Burma for 10 years-and was now drawing a salary of hundred rupees per month. A Calcutta publisher came forward to give him a monthly guarantee of Rs. 100/- and on the strength of that pro-

(Contd. on page 11)

★

The Youth all over the country have stood up as one man to fight the evil of dowry. In Tamil Nadu youngsters are actively participating in the "No dowry" movement. Recently a seminar on the subject "Dowri, a social evil" was held at Madras. No dowri pledges signed by working youth, students and parents numbering 7121 were handed over to Tamil Nadu Governor Sri Mohanlal Sukhadia then by the Madras Youth Association. Picture shows a young lady handing over the pledge documents to the Governor.

★

DOWRY: A SOCIAL EVIL

By D. ANJANEYULU

In the year of grace 1976 (in our country), not a day passes without cases being reported of newly married brides committing suicide by jumping into a well or a river or by setting fire to their kerosene-soaked clothes. There was, some time ago, an even more horrifying instance of a mother-in-law setting fire to the clothes of her young daughter-in-law while she was asleep, with the connivance of her son. Nor all these harrowing tales relate to illiterate families in the remote countryside. Some of them had occurred among the educated, well-to-do families in the large cities like Surat and Ahmedabad, Indore and Gwalior. One does not know how many such cases go unreported, for each case that is reported in the Press.

The Government of Madhya Pradesh has recently issued an order to their police, medical and other departmental officers to have a close look at such cases to find out if there is any foul play. This has particular reference to the presumption against the inlaws whenever it is reported that their new daughter in-law has ended her life in mysterious circumstances, and for no ostensible reason. After having probed the background of an alarming number of such cases, the Government had obviously come to the conclusion, though on circumstantial evidence, that the death of the newly-wed wife was presumably not the result of shock of happiness at joining the husband. Nor can we go away with the blissful impression that this is an exclusively regional phenomenon peculiar to States like Gujarat and Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

This is the human side of the problem of Dowry. It has other aspects too like the social, economic and cultural.

MEANING

Before going into each of them. one by one, let us pause a little and look into the meaning of the term 'Dowry". By dowry is meant *'varasulkam'* (or the bridegroom price) paid by the bride's party to the bridegroom (or his parents, as it happens more often) as an inducement or consideration for marrying the bride. The natural presumption from this could be that the bride is ugly, unlettered or an imbecile worth nothing by herself and has to be cared for by the bridegroom as a drag on himself and his family; as a compensation for which he is provided with a lumpsum grant in the shape of a house, land, or preferably liquid cash. 'Dowry' or 'dower' could also mean the amount of cash or jewellery paid by the prospective bridegroom for the purchase of a bride. This practice of bride price (or *Kanya-sulka*) is no longer in vogue among the members of the so-called civilized communities in India. So Dowry has now come to mean only the price paid for the coveted bridegroom.

In the Southern part of this country, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in particular, this practice of Dowry is not only widespread but deep-rooted, according to my observation. We know from reliable sources that in Andhra Pradesh, especially among the landed and propertied communities, dowry, like taxation, has a well-recognised, regulated tariff rate, like, for example, rupees One lakh or more for an IAS bridegroom, Rs. 75,000 for a medical graduate, Rs. 50,000 for an Engineer, Rs. 40,000 for a State Service candidate, Rs. 25,000 for a lecturer in Government service, Rs. 20,000 for one in private service, and so on it goes in a descending scale.

ECONOMIC ASPECT

It is possible for some persons to agree that a rich man could purchase whatever he could afford to buy with money, including an IAS bridegroom. But in this, as in other matters, the poorer people and members of the lower strata tend to imitate the manners and customs of the rich. As you all know, fashion, like water, flows from the higher to the lower levels, by some social law of gravitation. When the poor imitate the rich, they naturally have to resort to measures which they can hardly afford. When it is beyond their means, they are forced to go to the professional moneylender, who could charge any rate of interest he pleases. This could ultimately lead not only to mortgage but sale of the little house or land that they might have. The family is economically ruined after the marriage. The remaining children will be on the streets, more or less. The result is broken homes, bankrupt families, and broken hearts-where the only ones who stand to gain are the moneylender and pawnbroker! This, in brief, is the economic aspect of the problem of Dowry.

Let us remember that we are no longer living in the days of *Laissez faire* (and of unfettered 'individual freedom') when the riches and the most privileged in society could say: "I do what I fancy most and the devil take the rest". Gone are the days when the landlord or factory magnate or High Court judge will prefer to have a dozen children, preferably all sons, for he could afford them. No longer could he affirm, with impunity: "I shall give three lakhs as dowry to my son-in-law, for I have thirty lakhs." We are living in a welfare State and a progressive society in which every citizen is expected to have a social awareness, which implies that he do his duty by the citizens less fortunately placed than himself. It therefore behoves the affluent to set an example to the less affluent, to the best educated to set an example to the less educated. What applies to family planning should apply to the problem of dowry as well. So much for the social aspect.

CULTURAL ASPECT

Now for the cultural aspect of this problem. There are some learned friends, I know, who are stout defenders of what they think are our social and cultural traditions. They might argue that *'Vara Dakshina'* (another name for *'Varasulka'*) is a part and parcel of the hallowed custom of 'Kanyadaana' (or giving away the bride). They might, therefore, be offending against the canons of Hindu tradition by abstaining from it.

It is useful to remember that tradition is not exactly what is copied from the father and the grandfather. Most of the

(Contd. on page 10)

FUN AND LAUGHTER

NO HURRY

The hurricane had struck. Trees were uprooted, roofs blown off, windows shattered and houses moved from their foundations. After the blow people ran into the street and gathered in small groups to inspect the big wind's damage.

In one of these groups a man was running about telling everyone not to get excited, be calm, determine the damage, and then decide on what to do.

"That's a very good idea," replied a woman in the crowd, "but if I were you, I'd go into the house and put on my pants."

* * *

EXPLAINED

"You have called only one constable" said the man accused of being drunk and disorderly.

"I want to hear the second constable's evidence."

"There was no second constable present."

"You'll excuse me, but I distinctly saw him."

"Yes, that's why you're here!"

* * *

THE SILLY GAME

A four-year-old asked her mother why she must do as she was told. Her mother, rather bewildered as to what to reply, said:

"Well, when I was a little girl I had to do what my mother told me, and when grandmother was a little girl she had to do what her mother told her."

"Hmm," replied the child. "I wonder who started that silly game?"

* * *

MARKSMAN

"You know, soldier," said the sergeant to the new recruit, "your shooting reminds me of lightning."

"How's that, sarge?" asked the recruit innocently.

"Because it never strikes twice in the same place," was the answer.

* * *

ABSENT-MINDED

"I forgot my umbrella this morning."

"How did you remember you forgot it?"

"Well, I missed it when I raised my hand to close it after it had stoped raining."

L.G
COMPOUNDED ASAFOETIDA
FOREMOST FOOD FLAVOURING AND PRESERVATIVE.
LALJEE GODHOO & CO. MADRAS 1
BOMBAY

CORRECTION

The editor of a small town newspaper prided himself on the accuracy of his staff. One day the 'phone rang and on the other end of the line was an irate man. "I've caught your paper in a mistake," he shouted. "You've printed that I'm dead."

"Humm," hissed the editor. Then he asked hopefully, "Where are you calling from now?"

* * *

HIS WORRY

An auditor got out of bed one morning and complained that he had not slept a wink.

"Why didn't count sheep?" asked his wife.

"I did, and that's what got me into trouble," answered the auditor. "I made a mistake during the first hour and it took me until I got up this morning to correct it."

* * *

EXPLANATION

They were discussing various species of animal and insect life. "Now take the moth," said Haddock seriously, "he leads an awful life."

Fish turned a puzzled face. "I fail to see why you say that," he replied.

"Well," said Haddock, "the poor little thing spends the summer in a fur coat and the winter only in a bathing costume."

* * *

SOUND TEST

A new pulpit having been erected, the minister and the verger tested the acoustics.

"Stand you well to the back and see how this sound," said the minister repeating a text.

"Fine, meenister, fine!"

"Now you go up into the pulpit and say something."

The verger went up. "I haven't had a rise o' pay for three years. Hoo does that sound, meenister?"

* * *

GOOD SIGN

A typist was on a month's probation, and towards the end of the trial period she announced to her friend: "I think Mr. Carter has decided to keep me!"

'Oh, has he said anything?" the friend asked.

"No," she replied happily, "but this morning he bought me a dictionary!"

* * *

THE SAME

A well-known R A. noticed a drawing of a fish by a pavement artist and asked what sort of a fish it was supposed to be.

"A shark, sir," said the artist.

"But you've never seen a shark."

"That's true, but don't some of you Academy chaps paint angels?"

AS PER INSTRUCTIONS

Dr. Coue was visiting a patient. "How is he today?" he asked the nurse.

"Very ill, Doctor; he has a high fever."

"No. I have told you over and over again you must never say that, you should say he thinks he has a high fever."

The next day he called again "Well?" asked Coue.

"No trouble this morning Doctor," replied the nurse. "He has not stirred. He thinks he's dead."

* * *

SENT OUT

Johnnie was gazing at his one-day-old brother squealing in his cot.

"Has he come from Heaven?" he inquired.

"Yes, dear," said his mother.

"No wonder they put him out."

* * *

THINGS TO COME

Vacationing at a shore resort, the editor of a rural newspaper smiled when a bathing beauty walked by.

"George," said his observant wife reproachfully, "were you smiling at that young lady?"

"Not exactly," he replied, "I was wondering how long it would be before someone reads a want-ad; 'Lost—gold locket containing lady's bathing suit!'"

* * *

UNPREPARED

A doctor attended anold lady who had caught a severe cold.

"Did your teeth chatter when you felt the chill coming over you?" asked the doctor.

"I don't know—they were lying on the table!" was the pleasant reply.

* * *

NAILING A LIE

An irate wife, seeking a divorce, told the judge, "My husband is an out-and-out loafer who thinks of nothing day and night but horse racing. He doesn't even remember our wedding day."

"That's a lie," shouted the outraged husband. "We were married the day Twenty Grand own the wood Memorial!"

* * *

DISAPPOINTMENT

A teacher said to one of her favourite students: "Peggy, your final examination-papers were a distinct disappointment to me. And what will your parents say? Didn't you tell me your Daddy had promised you a bicycle if you achieved good marks?"

"Yes," said Peggy, stifling a sob.

"Well, then," pursued the teacher, "why didn't you study harder? What were you doing the whole term?"

Peggy answered: "Learning to ride a bike."

BITTER BIT

A women bustled into an empty compartment on a train with her flock of four children and made them cluster up to the window so that people in the station would believe the compartment was full. Despite this deception, a ragged and unshaven man entered and took a seat.

The woman glared at him for a moment, then said. "I don't think you'd better stay; my children all have measles."

"Don't worry about me, lady," said the man. "I've 'ad 'em myself."

Very annoyed by this time, the woman protested, "But they're also developing whooping cough."

The man looked up wearily. "Look, lady," he said, "don't worry about that. The first tunnel we enter I'm going to cut my throat."

TOO LONG!

The office worker arrived late at the office—one hour late—and he made a sorry appearance. He was dirty, torn and bleeding. "I fell out of a window," he explained to his employer.

"Fell out of a window!" exclaimed the boss, nastily. "And that took an hour?"

* * *

PROOF

"I fear that young man I employed last week is dishonest."

"Oh, you shouldn't judge by appearances!"

"I'm not; I'm judging by his appearances in this case."

* * *

SAME TERMS

Customer: "I hear my son has owed you for a suit for three years."

Tailor: "Yes, sir; have you called to settle the account?"

Customer: "No, I'd like a suit myself on the same terms."

* * *

GROWN UP

It was long after mid-night. The author looked huggard and worn out. He had been working on his novel.

"Darling," called his wife, "are you coming to bed?"

"No," muttered the author. "I've got the pretty girl in the clutches of the villain and I want to get her out."

"How old is the girl?" asked the wife.

"Twenty-two," informed the writer.

"Then come to bed," snapped the wife. "She is old enough to take care of herself."

* * *

THE LAST WORD

Mary: "Why aren't you working?"

George: "The boss and I had exchanged words, and he won't take back what he said."

Mary: "What was it?"

George: You're fired!"

Kancharlahally Shows The Way

LAL KARAMCHANDANI

NOT far away from the famous Kolar Gold Fields is a small village which goes by the musical name of Kancharlahally about 90 KMs away from Bangalore in Karnataka State.

In a short span of less than three years, Kancharlahally has become equally famous and is attracting all those who are interested in not only the progress of agriculture but also in the very concept of cooperation and group action by one and all–be they big or medium or small and marginal farmers.

But what is so interesting about Kancharlahally is not only all the farmers pooling their 100 and odd acres together but also different organisations coming together for a common cause – helping the farmers to help themselves.

In this unique venture are the KSDA (Karnataka State Department of Agriculture), the UAS (University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, and the Mangalore Fertilisers and Chemicals Limited.

They all call it the "First baby" and rightly so. For the success of this joint venture has started many similar exercises all over the State.

An opportunity of seeing the Kancharlahally project first-hand came my way recently when about 30 to 40 farmers had collected to tell me personally how they had gone about getting together for the Block Demonstration in the early stages till they had reached a stage when Kancharlahally has become, so to say, the 'talk of the State'.

The village leader K. Muniappa Chetty, who is also the Chairman of the local panchayat was all agog with excitement when he personally took me to the rich paddy fields. While we had a look around at the uniform rich stand of the crop Muniappa reeled off figures after figures, to prove that the change in last two years was no miracle nor was it achieved 'overnight'.

His enthusiasm was reinforced by K. Konappa, President, Young Farmers Club. Not to be left out, were the other typical farmers like Venkata Reddy, Veerapa Reddy, T. Kamchandrapa, to name just a few of about 50 farmers who have pooled in a little more than 100 acres to make this Block Demonstration Project–what it is today–an envy of others, and a source of pride for Kancharlahally farmers.

'We are with you ! The representatives of Agricultural Department, University and input manufacturers are always ready to help the farmers in their new venture of joint farming.

To go back to the very start of the story, it was in 1973–74 that the joint UAS–Mangla–KSDA team came to this place, sat with the farmers and persuaded them to pool their land in a unified Block Demonstration.

Name any improved crop practice, they all have adopted it. All have gone in for soil tests, line-planting, green-leaf manuring, and improved high-yielding varieties. No wonder an average paddy yield has gone up from 14. 5 in 1973 to almost 28 quintals per acre–a cent per cent jump in three years.

What had brought about this welcome change was the availability of both the integrated agricultural services offering sound and practical farm advice, and the timely and adequate input supplies and proper follow-up action.

What was new in this concept was the absence of any element of input subsidy, and as such the farmers had to be convinced fully before they were ready to take up these new practices. Perhaps this explains why the scheme has been such a continue success and why it is likely to continue on its own, even when the joint team starts withdrawing and concentrating its efforts elsewhere.

The results are there for all to see a community hall, a new school building and a good number of pucca dwelling houses coming up fast. Almost everyone of 50 and odd farmers has electricity in the house, and a radio in the living room. The fringe benefit has been the improvement of dairy with the introduction of cross-bred cows. The village has now even a telephone facility often made use of for getting advice on many of the farm problems.

Talking to J. R. Bhaktul, Joint Director of Agriculture of the KSDA and the local Gram Sevak, Agricultural Extension Officer, Extension guide of UAS and the representative of Mangalore Fertiliser and Chemicals Limited, I realised how pilot projects like this can succeed given a response from the farmers, a team effort by various farm agencies, the ready availability of various inputs and a little encouragement from one and all.

Block demonstration need systematic planning, detailed calender of operations and timely and easy supply of inputs which all need special and concentrated efforts of extension staff no matter whether they are of the Agriculture Department or of the Agricultural University or even of the private input manufacturers. When you have all these you have a very good example of helping farmers to help themselves, and that help essentially is the best help. (FIU)

Trees are the gift of nature to man. Trees are useful not only to one who plants them but also to the future generations. They add beauty to our surroundings. They help in purifying air. They help people to keep good health. So it is the responsiblity of mankind to save them and also raise more trees. Now a campaign is on throughout the country to plant more trees. Every one should join this national effort.

Viking On The Plain Of Gold

By ARTHUR C. CLARKE

British scientist Arthur C. Clarke is a well-known science fiction writer Since 1951, he has written over 50 books, including Rendezvous with Rama and 2001 Odyssey. His most recent book, part of a trilogy, is Imperial Earth. Dr. Clarke is now a resident of Sri Lanka. He was at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, where the Viking spacecraft are controlled, when Mariner 9 became the first spacecraft to go into orbit around another planet (Mars).

It is pure coincidence that the Viking I lander made its historic touchdown in a region that astronomers had given the fanciful name "Planitia Chryse"—the plain of gold. No one expected to find gold in Chryse; Viking was looking for something much more valuable than that overrated metal—knowledge.

Yet it is very difficult for the layman, unaware of the way in which the most esoteric scientific discoveries can save millions of lives and create whole new industries, to appreciate the importance of such a project. He is apt to take the short-term view and ask, very reasonably, why the billion dollars spent on Viking .....could not have been used instead on houses, schools, hospitals, roads, etc.

ACT OF FAITH

It should be admitted at once that all the answers to this question won't be in for a couple of centuries. But it is an act of faith among scientists, based on all past history, that every breakthrough into a new realm of knowledge invariably adds to the total potential—and hence, wealth and happiness—of mankind. Sometimes the payoff is immediate: from Faraday's first experiments with magnets, to telegraphs and electric motors, was only a few years. Sometimes it takes a little longer; the voyage of Columbus changed the destiny of the human race, but it was several lifetimes before this became apparent.

For over a hundred years, since the development of modern telescopes, Mars has been the centre of such interest—though partly for reasons which we now know to be quite erroneous. The reported discovery in 1877 of a network of 'canals' inspired millions of words of speculation about Martian civilisations—not to mention countless science fiction stories and movies, of which H. G. Wells' "The War of The Worlds" is the most famous. (Or most notorious, after it provoked the 1938 radio panic in the United States.)

Viking's precursors, particularly the orbiting Mariner 9 which produced the first complete photographic survey of the planet, swept into limbo all the fabled Martian cities and princesses. Instead, they revealed a world almost as fascinating as the fiction—a place of roling multi-coloured deserts, of canyons that could swallow those of Arizona and Colorado without trace, and of volcanoes three times as high as Everest.

THE ONLY WAY

But even the closest observations from space could not prove or disprove the existence of life on Mars although they could eliminate many possibilities. The only way to settle the matter was by a landing on the surface. Hence Viking, with its pair of electronic cameras and its automated biology lab—an incredible tour de force of technology, containing forty thousand components in the volume of a biscuit tin.

This marvellously compact and versatile type of instrumentation usually, within a very few years, has its impact upon a whole range of down-to-earth applications in medicine, science and industry. Unfortunately, by the time some space-inspired device gets to the general public, its origins are usually forgotten. The shopkeeper or accountant (or for that matter schoolboy or housewife) operating one of the miraculous little electronic calculators that have removed all the drudgery from arithemetic, seldom stops to ask how such a gadget came about. But without the stringent demands of space-navigation, these tiny pocket brains would never have been developed.

SAME PROBLEMS

Perhaps only ten per cent of the world's population can afford pocket calculators, or would know how to use them. But 100 per cent of the world requires food, water and the basic necessities of life—and the type of survey equipment carried on space probes has already started to revolutionize the search for these things on earth. After all, looking for life on Mars, and looking for its prerequisities on our own planet, involves much the same problems.

Quite early in the space age, it was discovered that orbiting cameras and other instruments (very similar to those which gave us our first Martian's—eye view from Viking I) could reveal astonishingly detailed information about crops, water supplies, snow cover, ocean fertility, mineral deposits—the list is enormous, and is still growing. As a result, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has launched two "Earth Resources Satallites," now rechristened LANDSATS—though EARTHSATS would have been a better name, because they are doing equally important work on land and sea. Between them, LANDSATS I and II have produced millions of beautiful—and economically priceless—photographs, giving information about our planet that could have been obtained in no other way. This information is available cheaply to any country in the world, and has already enabled some developing nations to produce maps at a fraction of the cost of conventional aerial surveying.

In a very important and fundamental way, when we study Mars we are also studying our own world......and what it may teach us about our planet may one day be a matter of life and death. This may seem surprising, but consider these facts.

WEATHER CHANGES

For some years it has been known that the Martian atmosphere (mostly carbon dioxide) is so thin that its pressure is about one hundredth of the earth's. This means that even if it was warm enough (which it seldom is, except near noon on the equator) water cannot exist in the liquid form. There are clouds and snowfields on Mars—but no rivers or lakes—still less oceans Yet to the astonishment of the scientists, the first good photos of Mars showed vast dried-up riverbeds and huge canyons that seemed to have been cut by torrential rains—on a planet now more desert than the Sahara.

What has happened to the lost lakes—and perhaps oceans—of Mars? Is the same process occurring on earth? There has been tragic evidence, in the past few years, that profound changes are taking place in the weather patterns of our planet. Mars may tell us what is happening here—and perhaps what to do about it. Few discoveries would be more important than unravelling the forces which control climate. We urgently need the tools of space to save our own world—midway, it would seem, in the evolutionary sequence between cold, low-pressure Mars and redhot, high-pressure Venus.

When we understand how our earth works, we will know where to look for its mineral deposits, how to anticipate earthquakes and major changes in climate—and, perhaps, how to prevent them. Such knowledge may one day save millions of lives and create billions of dollars of wealth.

THE GREAT QUESTION

The engineer-visionary Buckminister Fuller once remarked that the most important thing about spaceship Earth is that it comes without an operating manual; hence many of our present troubles. Today's space explorers are helping us to write that manual.

Understandably, public interest has focussed in the life-detecting experiment. And rightly so, because the discovery of even simple microbes on Mars would have the most profound implications not only to science, but to philosophy and even to religion.

The great unanswered question which Viking may settle is this: must all life, everywhere, depend on the same handful of reactions as it does on earth? If we find that Martian life forms have just the same chemical themes as we men, we microbes, etc., that will suggest that no other arrangement is possible.

If, on the other hand, it turns out that Martian life has a fundamentally different chemistry—or, to continue our anology, that the Mars maccano set has quite different components—that would open up whole new vistas in biology and, ultimately, medicine. Remember how many of the drugs in the doctors' armoury were discovered by travellers to strange places on this planet. On a much more sophisticated level, this situation may be repeated in space.

And beyond the sheer excitement and practical importance of finding life elsewhere, there are philosophical implications which may change the patterns of human thinking until the end of time. A single Martian microbe would prove that life will arise on any world where it has the slightest chance of survival. We will look up to the stars with new emotions, in the virtual certainty that we are not alone, and that scattered across the Milky Way galaxy of more than a hundred thousand million suns there must be other civilisations.

And even if there is no life on Mars today—sometime in the next century, there will be. Next to the Moon, Mars is the new frontier for manned exploration—and, one day, settlement—using the tools of future science to tame a world whose opportunities and challenges are as yet almost wholly unknown.

For after the scientists will come the engineers and adventurers and administrators, and the next chapter of history will begin. So perhaps it would be just as well if Viking does discover gold on Chryse Plain. One day it may help the Martian emigrants with their balance of payment problems.

1,000-YEAR-OLD CHOIR

Regensburg (DaD): Regensburg Cathedral's *Domspatzen*, or boy's choir, dates back to 976. The present cathedral is a mere 700 years old. Both enjoy an international reputation. The altar of the Gothic cathedral was inaugurated in 1270 but the 105 metre (345ft) towers were not completed until 1869. The choristers' school was set up 1,000 years ago in the original Romanic cathedral, which was destroyed by fire. The choir's main duty is still to accompany Mass but its current repertoire ranges from Gregorian chants to to modern songs. The school is a *Gymnasium*, or high school, with 350 pupils and spacialises—not surprisingly—in musical studies.

A New Life For Kalrayan Adivasis

Some of the newly emancipated Adivasis working on a farm surrounded by the hills in Kalrayan region.

A new vistas of life was opened up for the Adivasis of the Kalrayan Hills in Tamil Nadu recently when the new schemes for upliftment of the weaker sections of the society was launched in the reagin.

The Kalrayan Hills on the Eastern Ghats lie in the Kallakurichi Taluk of the South Arcot District. It is about 200 kilometers from Madras. The former jagirs of Kurumba Gounden, Sadaya Gounden, Arya Gounden etc were part of this hilly region.

The tribal population of about 24,000 live in the 103 villages spread over the region.

They, generally known as Malayalis, are quiet and peaceful. The gents here consider their urban as very important thing. They are proud of it.

The jagirdars who ruled this area in the past were collecting all sorts of taxes like the Bachelors' Tax, Widow Tax, Grazing Tax etc from the poor and innocent inhabitants.

There was a cruel feudal system prevalent here. The peasants living in Kalrayan Hill area were signing pro-notes for four times the loan amont they received from the moneylenders. They were then virtually treated as slaves by the monied ones.

Under the 20 point programme, the Abolition of Bonded Labour Act, Tamil Nadu Debt Relief Act and other social acts are being implemented vigorously in this area to free the tribal people from the clutches of the landlords and moneylenders.

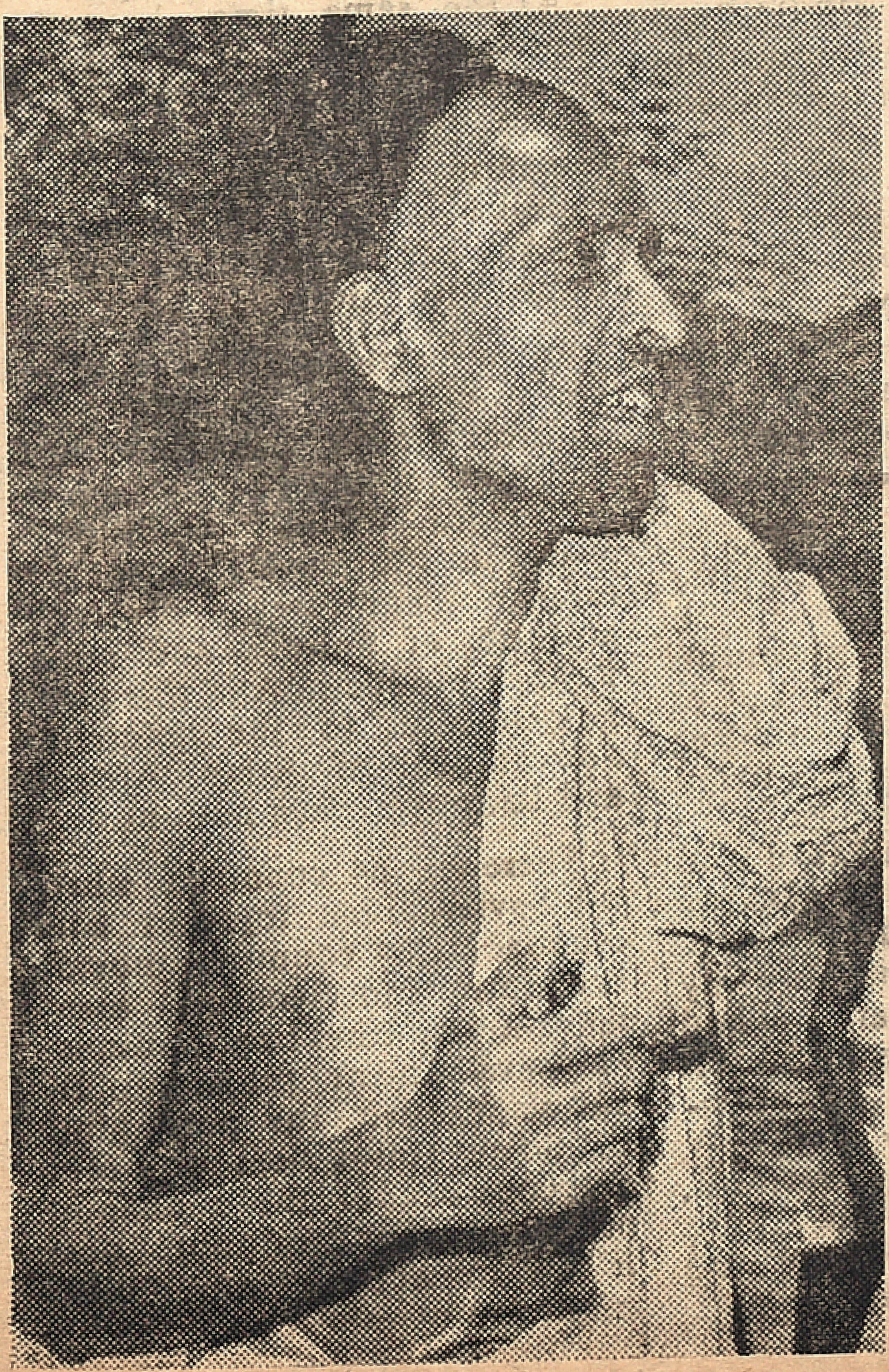
Medical facilities for over 1900 persons have been provided. Children are given vitamin tablets. Essential commodities such as Kerosene, Sugar, low-priced clothing etc are being given to them.

Under the new schemes it is proposed to have a police station in every one of the jagirs.

A road connecting all the villages in Kalrayan Hill region, running to about 120 kilometers at a cost of Rs. 1.5 crores, is to be laid.

A sum of Rs. 32 lakhs has been set aside to finance people living in the Kalrayan Hill region.

With the implementation of all the social schemes there lies before the people of this area a bright future.



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Two of the adivasis who were benefited by the new schemes implemented in the Kalrayan hill region in South Arcot District in Tamil Nadu.

★

A TRUE STORY:

From Slave Market To The Academy Of Sciences

From slave market to the Academy of Sciences may seem to be too far for one to traverse, but a helpless girl, offered for sale in the market place, did travel that difficult path.

It happened in the 1920s when Soviet forces were fighting the counter-revolutionaries. A cavalry unit under the command of Nikolai Zavayalov was pursuing a large detachment of the counter-revolutionaries that escaped over the border into the British-controlled neutral zone. Nikolai Zavyalov and two others in the squadron were assigned to gather information on the bandits' further intentions.

They penetrated into the neutral zone, gathered the information they needed and, just before returning, decided to drop into the local bazaar where the latest news was always to be heard. They strolled around the bazaar, looked into the tea rooms and opium dens, listened to the talks and finally came out into a small square where sales of horses, cows, goats, and sheep were usually held. There they saw a crowd that had surrounded a wooden platform with three girls on it. The youngest, despite her wretched rags, was amazingly beautiful. Zavyalov and his colleagues discovered from the conversations with the people gathered there that these miserable-looking girls were living commodities for sale. They were driven to this fate because nobody wanted to marry the the daughters of a poor persian peasant. So he was forced to sell the daughters.

SHOCKING NEWS

This information shocked Nikolai Zavyalov and his friends. Before they knew it, the two elder daughters were sold. Then an active haggling was underway over the youngest one. A fat old Persian was particularly active. Now and then he would run up to the girl, jerk her by hands and turn her like a doll, incessantly shouting something. Tears ran down the young beauty's cheeks.

Suddenly Commander Nikolai Zavyalov said that he could not bear the sight any longer. Saying so he made his way to the platform, talked with the girl's father for a few minutes, gave him a pack of money without counting it, snatched the girl by the hand and dived with her into the crowd.

Once they reached their shelter, Nikolai and his colleagues thought of returning the girl to her father. But she flately refused to go to her father's home saying that he would sell her all the same. Further conversation revealed that her name was Zarima, that her mother had died and that together with her sisters and brother, she had been raised by her father. They were poor people and that was why her father had decided to sell his daughters. She did not condemn her father, for, sale of children by poor parents was a common occurance where they lived.

NEW MASTER

Nikolai explained that they were strangers, but she said that she was ready to go anywhere with them and obey her master. She made a low bow to Nikolai making it clear that she was his slave. Nikolai trembled at this with indignation.

They moved on and crossed the border uneventfully. During one of their halts they explained to Zarima that now she was in the Soviet Union. But she did not react to this: she had no notion that the world consisted of different countries. During the journey all her attention was focussed on her new "master". She was barefoot and had to tread on rocks nearly all the way. Now and then Nikolai would pick her up and carry her in his arms like a child. The girl was not a bit embarrassed. She would wrap her arms around Nikolai and cling to him.

Back in his unit, Nikolai had to make lengthy explanations to the Commanders and Soviet officials. Finally, everything was settled and after a while he married Zarima.

Zarima brought into this marriage the centuries-old prejudices of the oriental woman. All that she could think of herself was that she was a slave-wife.

Each morning when Nikolai awoke she was already sitting at his bedside with a jug of water to wash his face, hands and feet. However late be came home she waited up for him. His protests only offended her. Zarima would dine afterwards.

Then her husband's unit was transferred to the North Caucasus, where anti-Soviet elements had become active. There in one of the combat operations Zavyalov was killed.

The Commanders' families had remained in Central Asia. By the time Zarima received the news and arrived, Nikolai had already been buried. She took it very hard. At his grave she said that since Nikolai had wanted her to study she would do so.

Before the war against Nazi Germany she entered the Institute of the Peoples of the East. But she had to interrupt her studies. For several years she worked as an interpreter in the headquarters of the Soviet troops stationed in Iran.

In 1946 Zarima was demobilised and resumed her studies. She received a higher philological education and took a post graduate course. In 1956 she maintained her Masters thesis, and in another seven years earned her doctorate.

Now she is a University Professor and head of a sector in one of the institutes of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Zarima is an active member of the Soviet Women's Committee and the Soviet Afro-Asian solidarity Committee.

Recalling the years she had spent in Iran she said: "During the war I revisited the place where I was born and met my brother and elder sister. It had a profound impact on me. All my friends say that I am sentimental but I was so incredibly lucky. Nikolai simply saved me. After all, it might not have happened. All I live by and all my happiness I owe to him".

Muscovite's Diary

Ivan Ivanov

NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN FULFILMENT BEGINS IN "GOOD RHYTHM"

The Soviet people are thrilled to hear from Leonid Brezhnev, the General Secretary of the CPSU CC, that the country had begun fulfilment of the new Five-Year Plan 'in a good rhythm".

Speaking at a conference of Party activists and economic executives of Soviet Kazakhstan, in Alma Ata the capital of the Republic, Brezhnev said that in the first seven months of the year, the increment in industrial production in the country was some five per cent as against 4.3 per cent envisaged in the plan. "There is every reason to believe that the 1976 targets for the development of industrial production will be overfulfilled".

Referring to the grain production in the USSR, Brezhnev said that over half the grain crops has been harvested not withstanding bad weather. "The crop of grain gladdens our hearts. It is evidence showing that the country will have enough grain this year."

"Both the destiny of the harvest and the economic development of the country as a whole", said Brezhnev, "depend in the final analysis on the labour activity of the multimillion masses on the work of all communists, the entire party. The fact that the Party and the people wholeheartedly supported the decisions of the CPSU Congress and actively set about their implementation gives tremendous satisfaction".

* * *

AN INSIGHT TO USSR ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

An article published here by a noted Soviet economics commentator Ivan Ablamov has given an insight to the USSR's economic cooperation with the developing countries. It says that the cooperation with these countries has contributed to their national independence.

The developing countries, Ivan Ablamov says in his commentary, are working for a new world economic order, trying to abolish the foreign monopoly domination and speed up their economic development. In this effort, they enjoy political and economic support from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

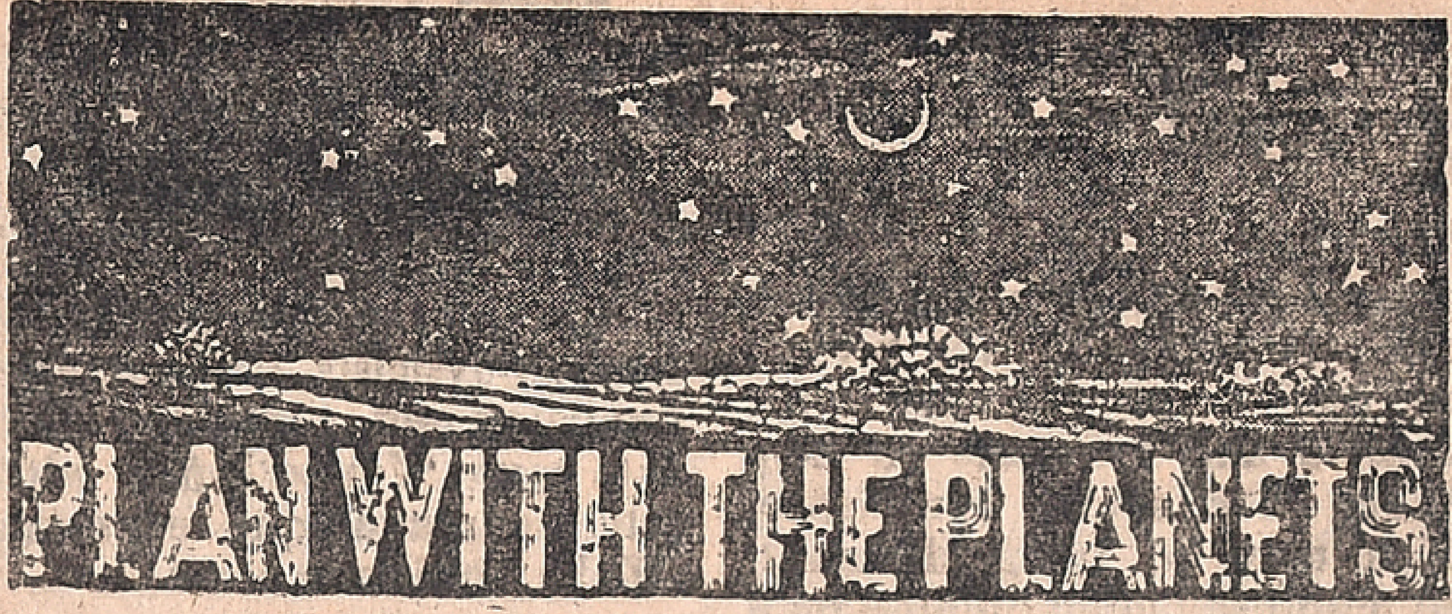
During the ten years from 1964 to 1974, the Soviet Union's trade with the developing countries has grown four-fold and wide use of long-term trade agreements enabled "Third World" countries to sell quotas of goods, agreed on earlier, and plan their deliveries and purchases for several years ahead in accordance with their economic development plans.

Referring to the Soviet Union's exports to developing countries, the commentator says that they are mainly made up of industrial equipment, including complete plants for the heavy and other key industries, for the expansion of consumer goods production and for improving their transports.

At the same time, he says, exports of raw materials from the developing countries to the Soviet Union on the basis of longterm agreements helps to stabilise the corresponding market and check the fall of commodity prices.

In a particular reference to the new trend that has been registered lately, Ablamov says that without reducing its exports of "Third World" traditional items, the Soviet Union makes regular purchases of vast amounts of finished and semi-finished products. And this gives new impetus to the indusrrial development of Asian, African and Latin American nations.

There are 64 countries where the Soviet Union together with other socialist countries provide economic and technical assistance in implementing thousands of development projects. He has emphasised the point that the Soviet Union does not seek any control over the economies of these countries nor does it try to achieve any other privileges or advantages.



For The Week 19th September To September 25th 1976

MESHA (ARIES)
Aswini Bharani
Krittika 1/4

THE week is ordinary. But, you can, with some efforts, succeed in financial matters. Home front is tolerable. Children's affairs are fairly satisfactory. Official matters are stimulated through genuine approach. Landed property and human relations come up for closer attention. There is some change in the outlook for profession. Go ahead with your planning. Your word will have better weight in social circles.

★

VRISHABA (TAURUS)
Krittika 3/4 Rohini
Mrigashirsha 1/2

THE week starts well with chances of better human relations. Official environment is suitable for making intelligent progress. But, in investment and financial matters, better care is necessary. Some pressure for funds and worries are seen. In family matters, there is oppression of mind. Speculative atttactions should be avoided. Fresh effort in completing official work is advisable. Health is below average.

★

MITHUNA (GEMINI)
Mrigashirsha 1/2 Arudra
Punarvasu 3/4

FROM Monday, the chances of success are greater. But, the general condition is a bit difficult. Worries over finance, difference of opinion at home and heavy expenses will strain you. Public relations and social work call for intelligent handling. Physical weakness and sometimes exhaustion will be felt. There is need for conserving energy and reducing expanses.

★

KATAKA (CANCER)
Punarvasu 1/4 Pushya
Ashlesha

THOUGH Sunday may be indifferent, from midweek the trends are better. Financial satisfaction, and professional advance are possible. Expenses are high. Frinds will be helpful. Renew your contacts. Benefits will flow from well wishers. In professional matters, you can hope to better your position. Political and social work are stimulated. Jupiter and Sun will help your achievements. Though there is physical strain, you will be rewarded. Go ahead with renewed efforts. Conditions will develop in your favour

SIMHA (LEO)
Maka Purva Palguni
Uttara Palguni 1/4

SUNDAY is helpful in public contacts. At home, try to complete outstanding work. Monday and Tuesday are not helpful. Care is necessary in financial matters. There is a tremendous urge to make money. Success is also possible. Favourable influences are at work in profession. Nervous trouble should be avoided with precaution. Week-end is much helpful. Expenses are high despite good income. Do not argue at home.

★

KANYA (VIRGO)
Uttara Palguni 3/4 Hastha
Chitra 1/2

THE week opens with chances of success in public relations. You can hope to complete outstanding work. Official atmosphere is good. With some foresight and diplomacy, solid progress is assured. But, avoid obstinacy at all costs. There is a tendency to catch cold or get nervous strain. Investment in real property is not up to your expectations. In children's caffairs go slow.

★

THULA (LIBRA)
Chitra 1/2 Swathi
Visakha 3/4

TOLERABLE indications are seen throughout the week. Except the expenses, there is scope for progress in several directions. At home you may not find the expected comfort. Pinpricks may be there. In social and official fields, sustained efforts will be crowned with success. Friends will be helpful. But, you will have to wait for satisfaction in money matters. Do not rush into fresh investment.

★

VRISCHIKA (SCORPIO)
Vishakha 1/4 Anuradha
Jyeshtha

MOST of the week is ordinary. While professional matters are tolerably good, health needs care. Some obstacles in your ambitions are not ruled out Public relations are good. Though full satisfaction is lacking, some improvement in domestic atmosphere is seen. Special care is necessary in the management of finance. Writers and politicians may find success, which was previously eluding. There is need for a co-operative attitude.

★

DHANUS (SAGITTARIUS)
Mula Purva Ashadha
Uttara Ashadha 1/4

SUNDAY will stimulate your thinking in social and official matters. Finance is moderate. Health needs care, Family strain and physical strain should be avoided with care. You must cultivate optimism and enthusiasm. Care is necessary in travel. If you are looking for a favourable change in profession, take fresh efforts. This is a period of sustained efforts. Do not lose heart.

★

MAKARA (CAPRICORNUS)
Uttara Ashadha 3/4
Shravana Dhanistha 1/2

FINANCE is strained. Do not rush into fresh commitments. Though finance and profession show moderate indications, the general picture is distressing. Family commitments are taxing. Expenses increase. Poor health and in different human relations are some results. Expected results from your relatives, are delayed. Try to rely on your own resources. Health of family members calls for attention. There is much physical weakness.

★

KUMBHA (AQUARIUS)
Dhanistha 1/2 Sathabhishag
Purva Badrapada 3/4

SUNDAY is helpful in your affairs. But, family expenses are high. Financial position is generally poor. Health troubles and worries about children are likely. Investment and speculative propositions can be better avoided. Your impatience and obstinacy will not be helpful. Spritual attractions are also there. There is upset in domestic calculations.

GLOSSARY

Arudra	—திருவாதிரை
Pushya	—பூசம்
Ashlesha	—ஆயில்யம்
Purva Phalguni	—பூரம்
Uttara Phalguni	—உத்திரம்
Anuradha	—அனுஷம்
Jyeshtha	—கேட்டை
Purva Ashada	—பூராடம்
Uttara Ashada	—உத்திராடம்
Shravana	—திருவோணம்
Dhanistha	—அவிட்டம்
Satha Bhishag	—சதயம்
Purva Bhadra-pada	—பூரட்டாதி
Uttara Bhadra-pada	—உத்திரட்டாதி

MEENA (PISCES)
Purva Badrapada 1/4
Uttara Badrapada Revati

MONDAY and Tuesday are better. The general picture is not very enthusing. Financial pressure and family strain are felt. There is haste with emotional setback. Children's behaviour is not up to expectation. There is need for patient handling of public relations. Do not take things easy. There is need for efforts. If you are already strained by family work, do not find fault with others. Time is indifferent.

GONE!

Speaking about hatred, a preacher asked those members of his congregation who had conquered this sin to stand up.

A very old man—the oldest man in the country—got to his feet.

"You don't hate anybody at all ?" asked the preacher.

"No, I don't," said the old man.

"That's wonderful. Tell us how you did it."

"Well," piped the aged one, "all those skunks who did me wrong all those blankety blanks I hated"—and he cackled triumphantly—"they're all dead !"

EXPERIENCED

Boy friend : Did I see Joe kiss you last night ?

Girl-friend: Uh Huh.

Boy-friend: Where is that guy ? I'll teach him a thing or two.

Girl-friend : Uh—I don't think you can, dear.

THE FAMOUS ASTROLOGER
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From page 8

Dowry: A Social Evil

marriage practices with economic implications and involving financial dealings have all been the result of local custom rather than of Hindu or Vedic tradition. They are all variations on the basic theme of keeping the family wealth close together and adding to the extent of the family farms. They have little or nothing to do with the Vedic tradition followed by the orthodox Hindus, in marriage and other ceremonies.

I have it from the authority of a distinguished Vedic scholar (Sri Agnihotram Ramanuja Tatachariar of Madras) that the practice of Dowry finds no mention in the Vedas or any of the other ancient sacred texts. It cannot, therefore, find its sanction in genuine religious tradition. It must needs go elsewhere for this purpose—namely the origin of feudalism in Indian society. Some would look at it as another of the evils gathered by us with the accumulation of wealth.

The problem is easily stated. But what could be the solution? Students of law are aware that legislation prohibiting dowry has been on the Statute Book of the Central Government during the last 15 years and more (i. e. since 1961). Violation of this law is made punishable by a fine of Rs. 5 000 or imprisonment for six months or both in deserving cases. Experienced social workers find it necessary not only to make the punishment of the violation deterrent, but the implementation of the law more strict. A professor of law recently observed that she had not come across even a single case of infringement of the Dowry Prohibition Act reported in the law reports. (ILR, AIR and other series).

DIFFICULTIES

The Act should by no means be allowed to remain a dead letter because of the difficulty in detecting the cases of infringement and bringing the offenders to book. There are no doubt serious practical difficulties in adducing evidence and providing proof for establishing the offence. These are matters on which legislators, legal experts and social workers could contribute their ideas towards the solution of the problem.

We are, however, not so naive as to imagine that the problem of dowry is so simple that it can be wisked away in a trice. It does not admit of a quick and easy solution. Where social problems like dowry, prevention of child marriage and encouragement of widow remarriage, etc. are concerned, much depends on the education of social thinking and the mobilisation of public opinion. It is, therefore, vital that the social conscience of the community at large, where it is found to be lagging behind, is brought forward to go hand in hand with the legal provisions in the statute book. It is so in the present case and hence the need for seminars and symposia to help awaken the social conscience, which may be lying dormant, and mobilise public opinion on a regional and ultimately on a national scale.

Let us remember in this connection that equality of status between men and women in this country has been guaranteed in the Fundamental Rights under our Constitution. Where Constitutional rights alone are concerned, Indian women are better off than their sisters in the best developed countries of the West like England and France, Sweden and Switzerland, West Germany, United States and Canada. But their social and economic status in actual life has quite a different story to tell. In the traditional Indian mind they are either placed on a high pedestal and equated with the heroines of the mythical past or members of the pantheon or relegated to the kitchen and inner apartments as drudges and child-bearing machines. It is rarely that they are accepted as full and active partners in the adventure of life. Even some of the most highly educated men tend to accept the educated women reluctantly and with a lot of mental reservations.

Because education for many of us is only a tool for acquiring a new technical skill to earn a higher salary and enjoy some other privileges. It does not seem to make any difference for a man's ethical pattern, his value system and his code of personal conduct or for the social ethos of the community.

SUGGESTIONS

There, is therefore, need for social workers, young and old, to educate the public at large on the burning problem of dowry. Here are a few practical suggestions for their consideration:—

1) Collection of pledges (that they will neither take nor give dowry nor be a party to it in any other way) from parents of eligible boys and girls and from the children themselves:

2) Presentation of mementos (of no great monetary value) to recently married no-dowry couples as a token of appreciation;

3) Door-to-door campaigns for survey of the attitudes, to start with, and then for motivation;

4) Registration of marriages apart from the religious ceremony, abstention from the practice of dowry being made a condition for the registration:

5) Matrimonial Advertisements in newspapers and wedding invitations to contain the words *"This is a no-dowry marriage"*;

6) Service rules in both Governmental and non-Governmental undertakings to make dowry-taking and/or dowry giving a disqualification for entry or promotion; and

7) Anti-dowry legislation in the various States to be made more stringent, where necessary.

After all is said and done, it will be admitted by any social worker who is a realist that a permanent solution to this problem will involve a radical alteration of the laws relating to property and basic change in the social and economic structure. Until that comes about, what are we to do? Can we afford to wait in a do-nothing, fatalistic posture? Our answer is 'No'. Let us be up and doing here and now.

Space Technology Applied To Fisheries Research

A team of fishermen, engineers, physicists, oceanographers biologists and computer specialist have "found" fish with a satellite in a unique experiment off the Louisiana coast.

The satellite cannot "see" fish directly. Instead, it detects water colouration. Shoals of feeding fish disturb the surface of the water and alter its colour. Scientists can then indicate the probable presence or absence of large numbers of fish by studying water colourations sensed by satellite.

Fishing vessels confirmed the presence of shoals of fish in most, though not all, of the areas predicted by studying satellite data.

The technique could lead to a greatly improved understanding and management of coastal fisheries.

The National Maritime Fisheries Service and private companies are cooperating in the project.

While the test was a success, considerably more work will be required before a satellite system can be made available to fishery problems. The concept, however, has been demonstrated and that should make further efforts easier.

Nude Ballet

The "New York Times" reports that the visiting Royal Danish Ballet performed a classical ballet in the nude—for the first time ever at the Metropolitan Opera House.

Strange, But True

Necessaries

"Industrial and Commercial Security" was the name of the anti-spy exposition at the American trade and exhibition centre in Paris. There were some fifty American firms displaying clever gadgets designed to combat bugging, spying and other forms of interference in businessmen's affairs. On display was an elegant brief case. It is not for documents, however. It contains a device allowing to establish whether or not there is a "mini-spy", that is, a bugging contraption nearby. Another exhibit is a detector to show whether somebody is listening in to your telephone conversations. It is built into a cigarette case and that makes it possible to check up unnoticeably on other people's premises. Then there is a device fixed to the floor of a car. When the vehicle is stolen, it radiates signals that are received by a police patrol car or helicopter. There were also bugging devices displayed. One of them takes care simultaneously of ten telephone lines. The exposition coincided with the U. S. bicentennial.

* * *

No Snag

The United Press International reports that a court in Salt Lake City (Utah, U S.A.) has convicted Congressman A. T. Howe on immorality charges. Judge Raymond Uno sentenced him to thirty days and a fine of $150. The Congressman told newsmen that the decision will not cause him to give up his plan of seeking re-election to Congress.

* * *

What To Sing And When

"Kontakte," a bulletin published by the Warendorf Church Community in the Federal Republic of Germany, is advertising a newly-printed book of hymns. "Have you thought how well it can be used during your holiday trips?" it asks. "You can keep yourself and the driver from dozing by singing a hymn." It further recommends Hymn 303—"We Are Going in God's Name"—when driving at 50 kilometres an hour: Hymn 656—"We Are Only Guests on Earth"—at 100 kilometres, and Hymn 659—"O World, I must Part with Thee"—at 150 kilometres.

* * *

Records

For the first time in history, according to a report of the British Home Office, there were more than two million crimes registered in England and Wales in 1975. This meant a crime every sixteen seconds. It beats the record of New York, which is notorious for its crime rate. In the first quarter of this year there was one crime committed there every 52 seconds.

From page 1

INDIAN PLANNING...

of economic progress can be equitably distributed.

The Third Plan document postulated categorically the principles of self-reliance. But the war with Pakistan in 1965, the severe droughts of 1965-66 and 1966-67, the deterioration of the balance of payments gave rise to serious difficulties towards the end of the Third Plan. The country, therefore, went in for Annual Plans for the three years following the Third Plan, so that the economy be revived, before the process of quinquennial planning was started.

The Fourth Plan was aimed at strengthening the drive for attaining economic self-reliance. Two unforeseen events, however, had a bad effec on the balance of payments in the last year of the Fourth Plan. First, the severe drought of 1972-73 necessitated the import of large quantities of food-grains at exorbitant prices. And secondly, the international prices of major imports e. g. steel, non-ferrous metals, fertilisers and newsprint soared greatly. All these caused a set-back to the growth of the economy.

The only means of extricating a poor economy from its low productivity equilibrium is to increase the savings-income ratio and the output-capital ratio. A higher return on capital can be earned by developing appropriate skills in the labour-force. Another important but difficult task for the planner is the mobilisation of resources in a poor country in which the majority of the population do not save at all.

GROWTH RATE

India spent Rs 19600 million in the public sector during the First Plan. The outlays in the Second, the Third and the Fourth Plans were Rs 46720, Rs 85,700 and Rs 162010 million respectively. The public sector outlay during the Fifth Plan is likely to exceed Rs 372500 million. Net domestic product increased at an annual compound rate of 3 3 per cent in the period 1961 to 1974.

The rate of growth in food grains-production during the period 1961-74 was 2 7 per cent (compound per annum) There have been corresponding increases in the total cultivated area and in the total area brought under irrigation.

India has increased and diversified its exports to a considerable extent. Industrial items had constituted only 47 per cent of our total exports in 1960-61; the corresponding figure in 1973-74 was 60 per cent. Exports of manufactured goods increased at a compound growth rate of about 13 per cent per year during the period 1960 to 1974. Non-traditional items constitute an important component of our exports today. In 1973-74, more than 44% of the country's total exports consisted of non-tradional products This had been due to diversification which has been mainly the result of a persistent drive for exports in the industrial sector.

India has also been trying to have access to a larger number of international markets This will protect the domestic economy from the fluctuations of demand in any particular market. India now caters for the demand of many countries of the European Economic Community particularly Germany, France and Italy. The increase in exports to the East-European countries and the USSR has been remarkble; these countries are now the buyers of about 20% of our exported commodities.

A considerable headway has been made in the field of import substitution. India today is self-reliant to a large extent in the sectors of paper, chemicals, iron and steel and non ferrous metals, and has almost completely stopped the import of consumer goods. The nation can be proud of the fact that the rate of indigenous capital-formation has been increasing over the last fifteen years.

RECORD PRODUCTION

In 1975-76, India produced 116 to 118 million tonnes of foodgrains which was a record production. The growth rate in the industrial sector has been 5,5. per cent in 1975-76. Given the present stability of the economy and the increased availability of power and raw materials, it is reasonable to expect a higher growth rate in 1976-77.

The Indian rupee is a stable currency now. Its value is at present determined on the basis of a weighted average of the exchange rates of the currencies of its important trading partners. The value of the rupee vis-a-vis the sterling has been increasing.

The Annual Plan outlay for 1976-77 is of the order of Rs 78520 million which is 31 per cent higher than the outlay for the previous year.

Emphasis has been laid in the draft Fifth Five Year Plan on core sectors like agriculture, irrigation, power industry and minerals. An expanded core sector is a nucleus of growth. There is now greater confidence that the the country can hasten development without unleashing the dangerous forces of inflation.

The planning strategy is based on the diode of development and social justice. This strategy seeks to ensure that the benefits of development percolate to the grass-roots. One of the most efficient means of doing so is to generate employment, which increases incomes and also helps in attaining more equitable distribution. The Fifth Plan lays considerable emphasis on programmes for the small farmers, agricultural labourers and the urban unemployed.

EMERGENCY MARKED THE

The declaration of the emergence of a new era in Indian history But the foundation of political order is essentially the economic well-being of the nation. Immediately after the promulgation of the emergency, the Prime Minister announced the 20 Point Programme. This programme is aimed at reorganising the agrarian and urban economies of the country. It will transform outmoded relations of production and release productive forces on an unprecedented scale. It is not merely a set of administrative schemes but a comprehensive strategy for ushering in a new society. The implementation of this Programme is being devota-led with our Plans.

From page 2

SARATCHANDRA: ...

mise he left Rangoon and came over to stay in Calcutta.

And in the course of years, his great works, Srikanta, Datta (Betrothed), Palli Samaj (The Village Society), Grihadaha (The Burning of the House), Sheshprashna (The Last Question)— and many others appeared one by one. And his fame too grew from year to year.

DESHBANDHU'S APPRECIATION

Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das once invited him to write for his journal Narayan. Saratchandra sent him a story titled Swami (Husband). C. R. Das was so delighted with the story that he sent him a blank cheque with a covering letter saying that he would not venture to put a price on a story, by such an incomparable artist—and he requested Saratchandra to fill in his own figure in the cheque.

C. R. Das was then one of the foremost lawyers in the country and was having a fabulous income at the Calcutta Bar. Saratchandra could have put any figure he wanted—but he drew only a sum of hundred rupees.

GREAT POPULARITY

His great popularity at this time could be measured by the fact that his Pather Dabi (The Right of Way) sold 1000 copies on the first day of its publication. This was a new record in those days. Subsequently, however, the British Government proscribed the book for its political sentiments.

Every great writer, however eminent, is a product of his social environment and he writes primarily for his own age. Saratchandra was no exception. Most of his novels have Bengal's social condition as their background and a deep sense of social purpose gives to his works their intensely human flavour.

His method was also peculiar to himself. It is said that he did not always work out the entire plot beforehand. He decided upon the significant theme in a general way then picked up a few leading characters and assigned to them the leading parts he wanted them to play. He would then begin the book anywhere in the story.

He would sometimes commence writing the final portion of the book-and later on work out the beginning of it. His famous work Charitraheen (Characterless) is said to have been written in this peculiar way. He puts a character into a story rather than arranges a story so that a character emerges out of it.

ART OF DIALOGUE

In the art of dialogue also, Saratchandra stands supreme among the Indian writers of fiction. All his works depend for their appeal on the art of dialogue embodied in them.

In his early youth, he once ran away from home and wandered from place to place in the guise of a Sanyasi. He came into contact with a large variety of people and thus enriched his experiences of life. Many of these experiences have been immortalised in his works.

In his lifetime he received a measure of affection from the reading public that has indeed been given to very few. And when at the age of 62 he passed away—on January 16, 1938—a mammoth procession of mourners accompanied his last remains, to the cremation ground in Calcutta.

On his birthday this year—on September 17-let us remember Saratchandra, the immortal story-teller.

(Courtesy: AIR Pondicherry)

From page 2

Subramania Bharathi . . .

short by Death at the early age of 39

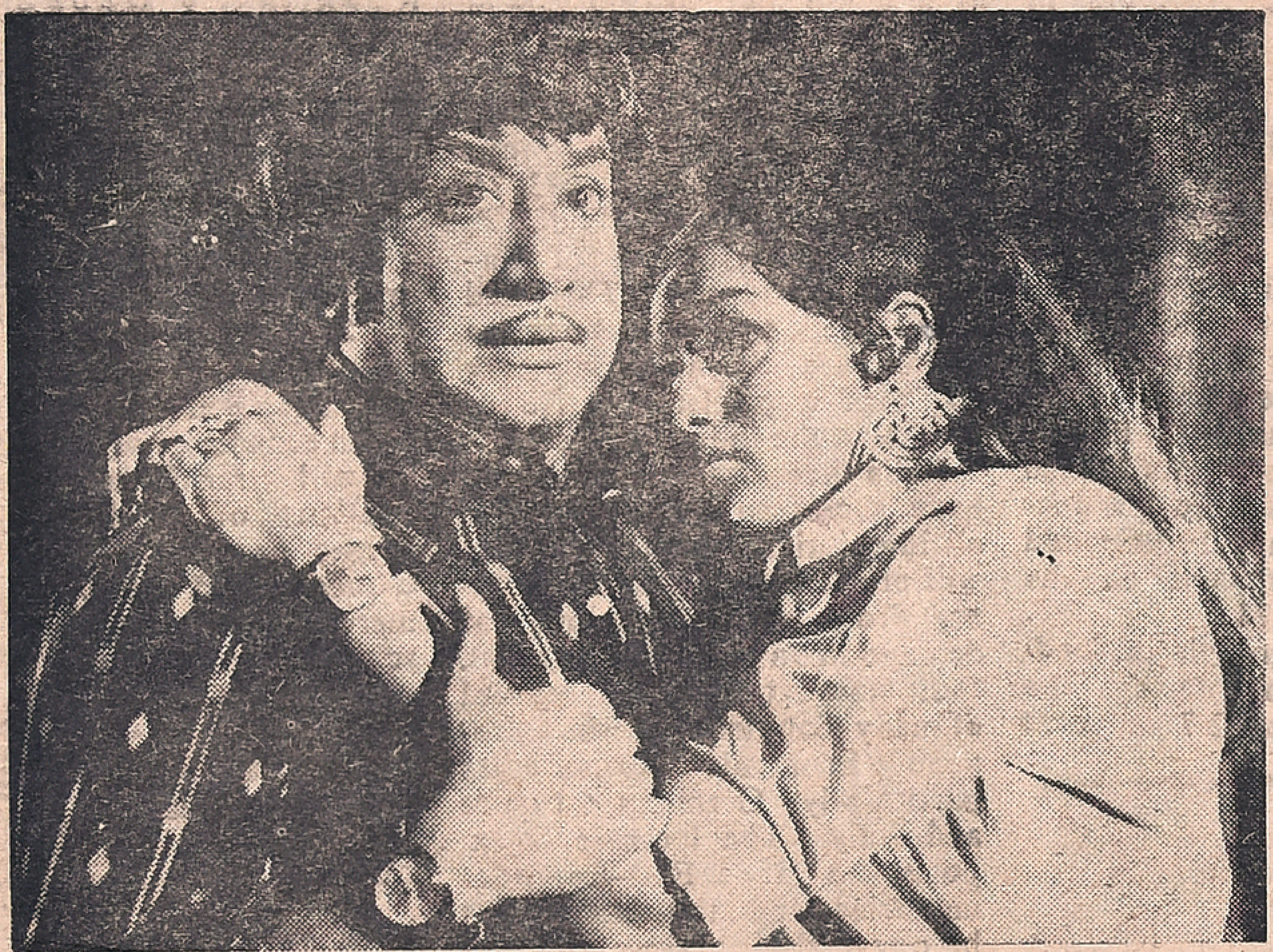
Bharati ushered in the new epoch of renaissance in Tamil literture, by it elf a signal tribute in regard to literature whose grammar can be traced back to 1000 B.C. But what was more, was his unique vision of this country's greatness in all its prismatic colours: Way ahead of most of his contemporaries, Bharati was a great admirer of the English poet, Shelley.

Time and again, his verses lay stress on freedom, liberty and the fundamental equality of all men. His philosophical poems reflect his inner experience and his craving for universal brotherhood.

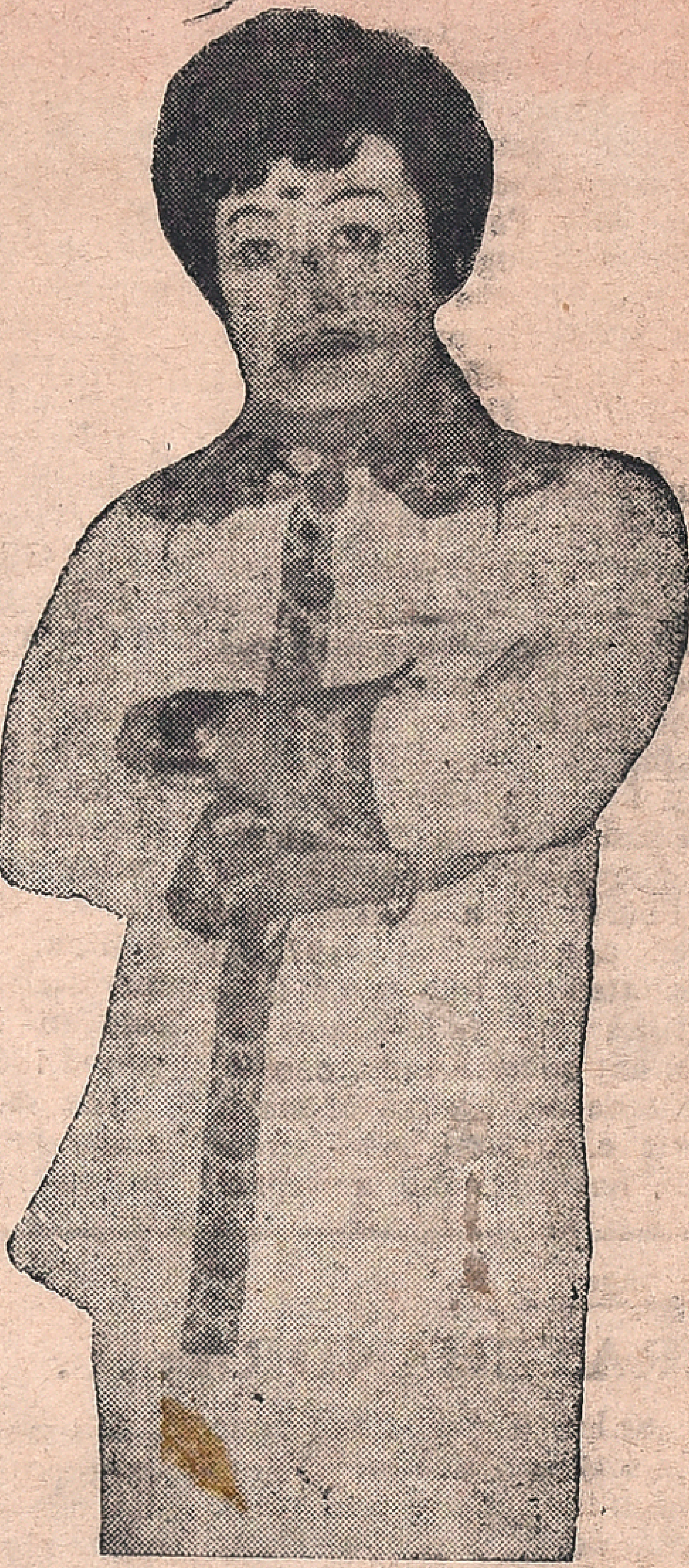
Greater than all this was his contribution to the cause of national unity, cutting across narrow frontiers. To him, India was one big family-blending of various colours, as he puts in the following lines :-

For the wheat of the Gangetic plain we'll give
Betel leaves from the Kaveri land ;
We'll hear the martial Mahratta bards
And offer them Kerala's ivory works.
Chant Bharat's name.
We'll fashion a magic sound-box
And hear in Kanchi the poet of Kashi.
We'll greet the Rajput warriors
With gold from the mines of Kolar.
Chant Bharat's name.

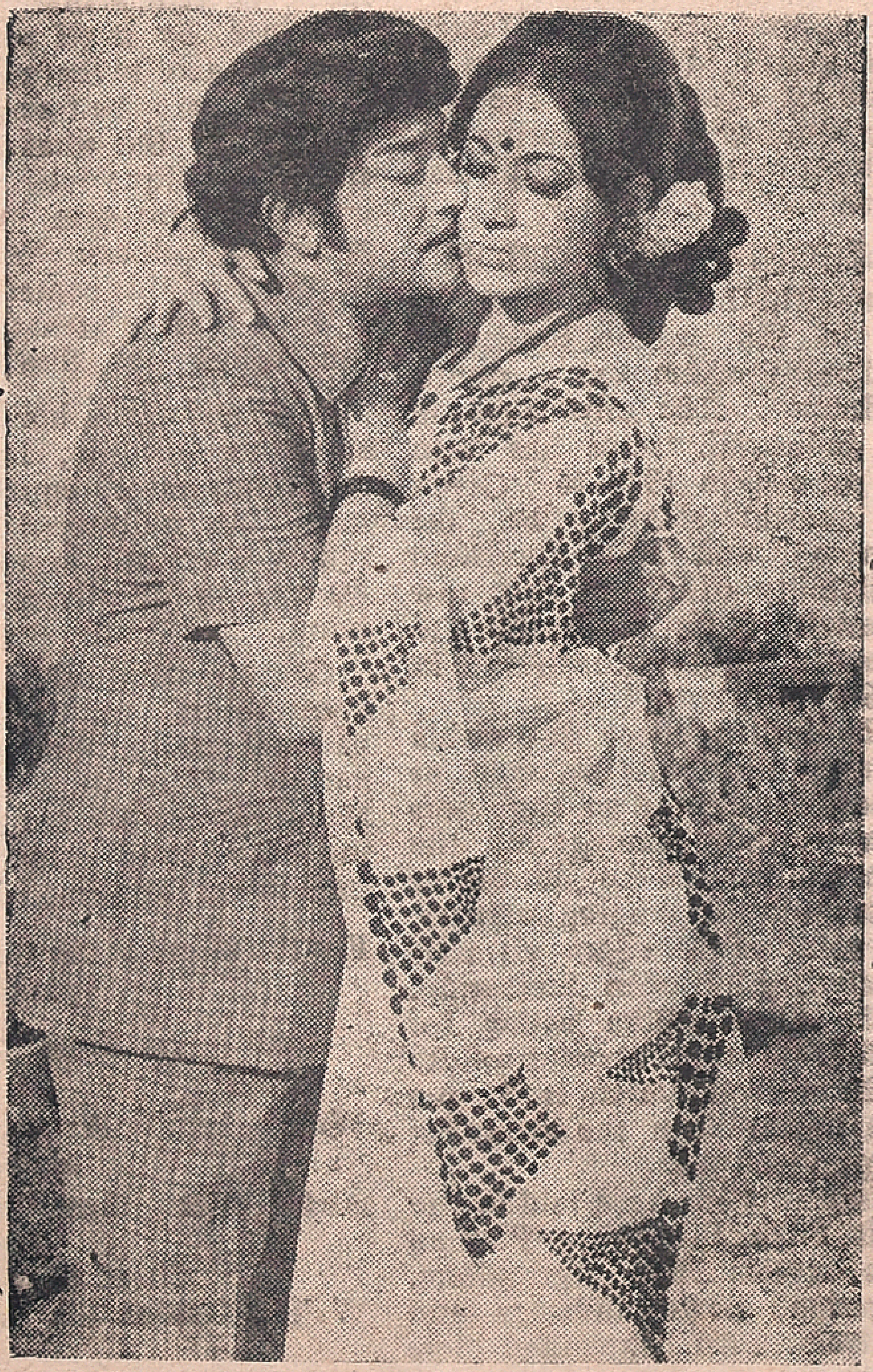
Film News In Pictures



Sivaji Ganesan trying to console the new comer Sangita in "Ilaya Thalaimurai".



M. G. Ramachandran as he appears in the Tamil film "Anna Nee En Deivam".



Sivaji Ganesan and Vanisri in an intimate sequence. Another still from the film "Ilaya Thalaimurai"

A characteristic pose of Jaisankar who has earned a place for himself in the film field. He is doing a good lot of social work too.

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